

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

14-168

Orleans

EAS.1260

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 1890 Bridge Road

Historic Name: Douglas and Alberta Sheppard House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1962

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: Ranch

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
None

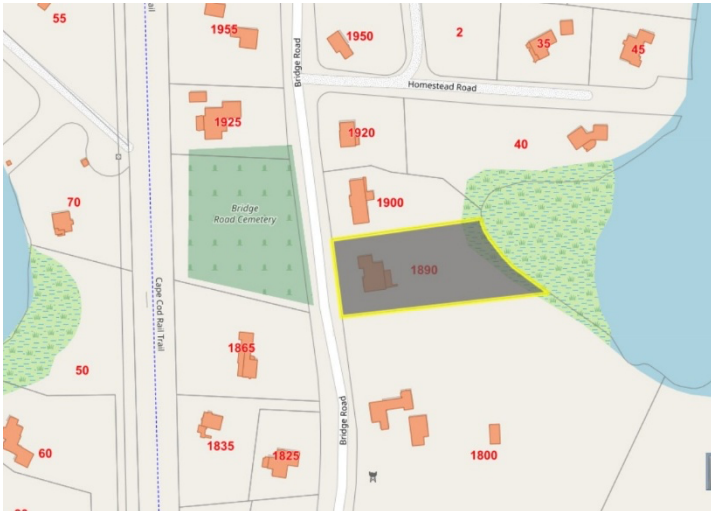
Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.11 acres

Setting: This house is sited close to the street on a parcel that slopes down behind the house to Mill Pond. Across the street is the Bridge Road Cemetery and Herring Pond. The surrounding area includes two 18th century farmsteads and 20th century subdivisions. An asphalt driveway leads to an attached garage. The house is surrounded by lawn and otherwise remains forested.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

1890 BRIDGE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.1260

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Douglas and Alberta Sheppard House, built in ca. 1962, is a ranch with a somewhat symmetrical form. The main block is a broad, one-story form with a side-gable shed roof. At either end of the front elevation are stepped-down gable-front ells that project forward. The elevations are clad in large-scale wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and has projecting eaves with exposed rafter tails capped with fascia boards. A small cupola rises from the main roof ridge in alignment with the recessed front entrance. The left, gable-front bay has a one-car garage. Fenestration includes double-hung windows that may be original with an unusual muntin pattern of horizontally oriented 2/2 sash.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

This northern portion of Bridge Road was established in 1837 when the first bridge from which the road took its name was built over Boat Meadow Creek. The road connected to Samoset Road and eventually connected Rock Harbor to Eastham center. This portion of Bridge Road is most noteworthy as the site of the second town center starting in ca. 1720, and it is the location of the Bridge Road Cemetery across from this house (ca. 1720, EAS.803). This house has a 1920 Assessor date but that is not correct. There is no house in this location on the 1952 United States Geological Survey (USGS) aerial photo of the area (Photo 2). The only houses in the vicinity as of 1952 were the ca. 1720 Rev. Webb House to the north at 1955 Bridge Road (EAS.62) and the ca. 1788 Doane-Bradford House to the south at 1800 Bridge Road (EAS.61).

In 1940, a 25-acre parcel of land that included the Doane-Bradford House and the land on which this house would be built was sold by Seamen's Savings Bank to Johanna and Homer Smith of Hillside, NJ.¹ Both Homer and Johanna Smith were born in Germany. They married in NY, NY in 1929. Homer Smith sold radios in New Jersey, but while living in Eastham he raised goats and became an active member of the Cape Cod Milk Goat Breeders Association in the late-1940s.²

Homer Smith died in 1956, and in 1962 Johanna Smith recorded a large subdivision of the property, with this parcel identified as Lot #2 (Figure 2).³ That same year, she sold Lot #2 to Douglas J. and Alberta W. Sheppard of Orleans. They presumably built this house shortly thereafter. The house is shown on the 1971 USGS aerial photo survey. Alberta Sheppard was an active member of the Cape Cod Hospital Association. In 1972, Alberta Sheppard was widowed when she sold this property to Robert H. and Virginia Smith of Eastham.⁴ Homer and Johanna Smith did not have children; any possible kinship with Robert Smith is unknown. In 1984, Robert and Virginia Smith sold this property to Caspar J. and Gloria F. Uccello of NY, NY.⁵ The property remains in the Uccello family.

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 578/ Page 541.

² Yarmouth Register, 21 October 1949, 3.

³ Plan Book 169/ Page 101.

⁴ Book 1648/ Page 310.

⁵ Book 4194/ Page 166.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

1890 BRIDGE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.1260

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1910 Map, *Atlas of Barnstable County*, Boston, MA: Walker Litho. & Publishing Co., 1910.

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Deeds, Land Court Records, and Subdivision Maps.

Barnstable Patriot Archives. Sturgis Library Digital Newspaper Archive,
<https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/APA/Sturgis/#panel=home>.

Dunham's 1929 Eastham (Mass.) Street Directory.

Larson Fisher Associates. Massachusetts Historical Commission Building Form, 1800 Bridge Road, 2020.

Lowe, Alice Albert. *Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham*. Falmouth, MA: Eastham Historical Society, 1968.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Reconnaissance Survey Report: Eastham." Typescript, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, 1984.

Trayser, Donald G. Eastham, *Massachusetts, 1651-1951: Eastham's Three Centuries*. Lexington, MA: Hancock Press for Eastham Tercentenary Committee, 1951.

Town of Eastham Tax Commitment Books. 1902-57.

United States Geological Survey. Aerial Survey 1938-2020,

<https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/cape-cod-chronology-viewer/>.

Wilding, Don. *A Brief History of Eastham*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2017.

www.ancestry.com - Vital records.

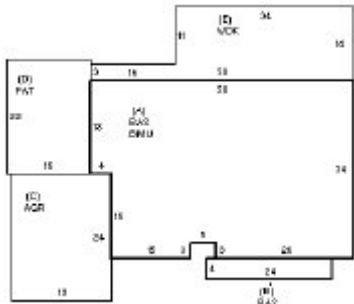


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. 1938 USGS Aerial Photograph, arrow to future site of this house added (Source: Cape Cod Commission).

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
	EAS.1260

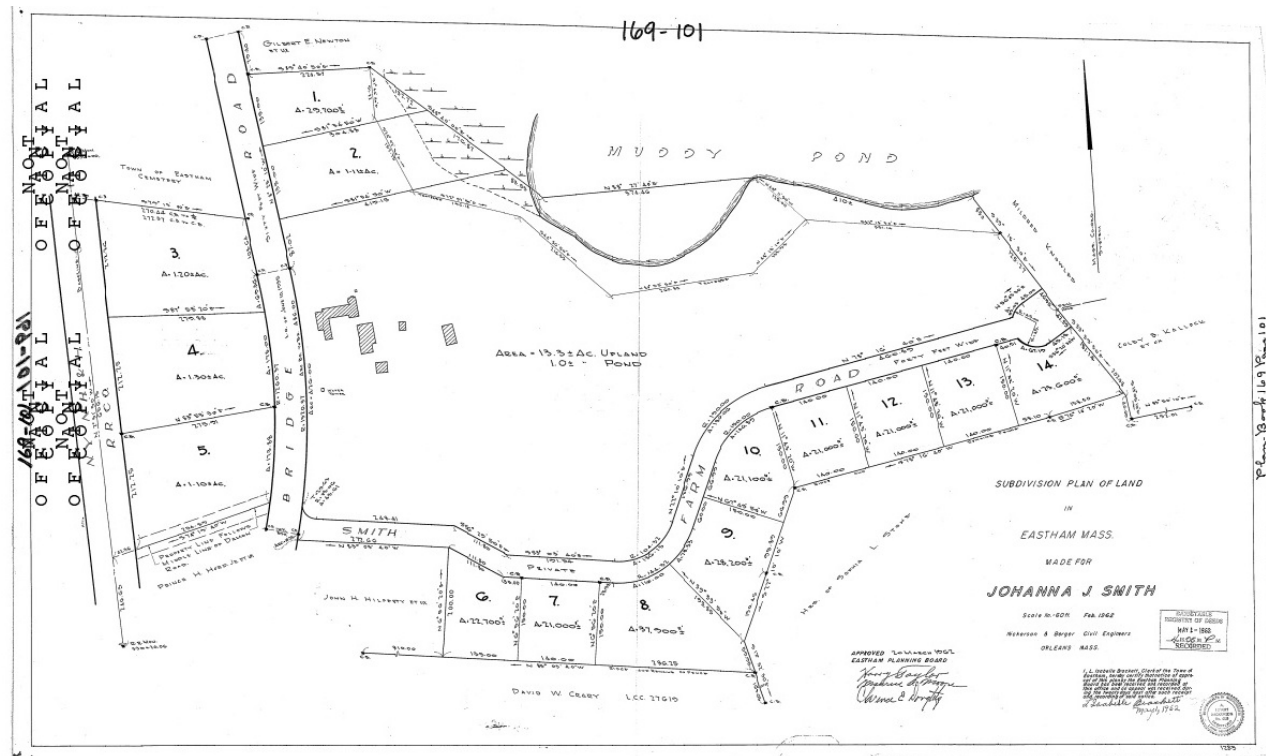


Figure 2. 1962 Subdivision Plan of Land for Johanna J. Smith, Plan Book 169/ Page 101.